

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Portugal

SUBJECT Possible Creation of a Loyal Opposition Party
in Portugal

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1. The Portuguese Government had decided, by early March 1949, to sponsor an opposition party, to include all Portuguese who do not belong to the Uniao Nacional, as an indication of the democratic nature of the present regime. Anyone who is not a member of one of these parties will be considered a Communist by the Government. Among those slated to set up the new party is Marcelo GAETANO, head of the Government Party, Uniao Nacional.
2. The Uniao Democratica Nacional, being formed in early March, wishes to be recognized, according to another source, as a party of loyal opposition within the framework of the present regime. Its aims include constructive collaboration with the Government while trying to lead the latter into more liberal principles and concepts. Communists will be refused membership in the new party which has been proclaimed anti-Communist.
3. Identified, so far, as leaders of this new movement are Cunha LEAL; Jorge Botelho MONIZ, a liberal anti-Communist supporter of the Government; Agatao LANCA; and Prestes SALGUEIRO. As an indication of the UDN's loyalty, Botelho MONIZ joined the Uniao Nacional on or about 3 March.
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ From the above information no definite conclusion can be drawn as to whether the Government is planning to create an entirely new party or whether it will recognize the UDN as qualified to become the new opposition party under Government control.

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